1072. [*Transferred to the 9th March, 1992*]

Shortage of LPG

1073. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of LPG in the country resulting in a long waiting list;

(b) whether it is also a fact that large quantity of gas is being flared up; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for conservation of gas.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Demand potential of LPG in the country is much higher than the availability.

(b) and (c) ONGC's Gas flaring Reduction Project is being implemented in the Western Offshore. Projects for enhancing the compression and transportation facilities in Gujarat and Assam are also being implemented.

Petroleum Products

1074. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between the production of and demand for petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production;

(c) what is likely to be the position by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) the steps taken to bridge the gap;

(e) whether Government propose to go in for import of oil during Eighth Plan; and

(f) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (f) In order to bridge the gap between demand and production, additional refining capacity is being created by expansion/debottlenecking of the existing refineries which are at various stages of approval/implementation. Although 8th Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised, the import of crude oil and petroleum products will continue during this period.

Oil Refinery at Numaligarh

1075. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated necessary funds for setting up of the proposed Oil Refinery at Numaligarh;

(b) if so, what is the amount allocated for the year 1992-93 and the amount allocated for the whole project; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) According to the Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) the estimated cost of the proposed refinery works out to Rs. 1799.06 crores based on July, 1991 prices. The project cost is expected to be financed by equity as well as by borrowed funds.

Subsitute for Petrol

1076. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to encourage the research for substitute for Petrol;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to find out the commercial viability of a substitute for petrol, patrese, a green liquid based on methanol and hydrocarbons, developed by a Bombay based chemical technologist; and

(c) what are the merits of patrese as compared to petrol in production and cost?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There are proposals for the use of compressed natural gas (CNG), methanol etc. as substitutes for petrol.